



Arts and Culture is a billion-dollar industry in Virginia



Virginia Commission
for the Arts

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THE PEOPLE OF VIRGINIA DESERVE GREAT ART

When the Virginia Commission for the Arts was created in 1968, it was given a special mandate by the General Assembly: "To stimulate and encourage public interest and participation in the arts throughout the Commonwealth."

As the state's official grants making agency for the arts for nearly 40 years, the Commission has remained steadfast in its commitment to this legislative mandate.

Believing that the arts are essential to a high quality of life, the Commission works to make the arts available to all Virginians and to stimulate the cultural, educational and economic growth of its diverse people and communities.

Through funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Commission distributes grants to those who create, teach, present and administer the arts. Success is measured by the thousands of dances, songs, symphonies, sculptures, paintings, readings, festivals and plays that are enjoyed by millions of Virginians and her visitors every year.

By strengthening arts in education, encouraging community cultural development, and supporting artistic excellence, diversity and innovation, the Commission helps ensure that the arts will continue to enrich the lives of Virginians for generations to come.



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VIRGINIA COMMISSION for the *Arts*



Arts facilities invigorate downtowns and become community gathering places



A performance touches us, makes us think, and delights us



Arts education is essential to the personal and intellectual growth of young people

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Virginia Commission for the Arts awards grants to non-profit arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, schools, educators and local governments. In 2006, this funding helped make possible more than 24,000 art events with an attendance of over 8.6 million, of which 2.2 million were school children. The Commission offers 11 different grant programs.

BUILDING OUR CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Communities across the state benefit from Virginia's thriving nonprofit arts industry. By supporting and nurturing arts organizations of all sizes and types, the Commission serves as a catalyst, helping to build private and local support for the arts and keeping the arts on stage and in view.

General Operating Grants help arts organizations continue, strengthen, and expand programs.

Local Government Challenge Grants encourage local governments to support the arts by matching up to \$5,000 in tax monies to arts organizations in their jurisdictions.

Technical Assistance Grants support professional development opportunities in order to enhance artistic and administrative expertise and improve community service.

Technology Enhancement Grants provide grants for the planning, strengthening and purchase of technology appropriate to the needs of each organization.

Cultural Tourism Grants provide \$5,000 matching grants to partnerships headed by General Operating Support grantees for cultural tourism marketing initiatives. This grant program is in cooperation with the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

MAKING THE ARTS MORE ACCESSIBLE

Making the arts available to a wider public is the first priority of this agency. High quality art should be accessible to all Virginians, regardless of race, age, gender, income, disability, geographic location and social barrier.

Project Grants support a wide variety of arts activities and are open to any not-for-profit organization presenting the arts.

Touring Grants support the touring of Virginia-based professional performing artists and ensembles within the state. Grants are made to presenters.

Writers in Virginia Grants provide subsidies for readings and workshops by Virginia writers of both fiction and poetry.

INVESTING IN CREATIVITY

Individual artists are the soul of the arts field. Helping the artists of today is an investment in the cultural heritage of the Commonwealth. It is the goal of the Commission to develop a climate in which artists of exceptional talent may work full time at their art with the possibility of financial and critical rewards.

Artist Fellowships recognize the central contribution professional artists make to the creative environment of Virginia.

STRENGTHENING ARTS EDUCATION

The Commission provides programs that enhance and enrich the arts instruction offered in PK-12 schools. The study of the arts is essential to intellectual and creative development and should be a part of the education of every young person. Research suggests that arts education contributes to student achievement and success.

Children that study the arts:

- perform better on standardized achievement tests
- improve performance in literacy, math, and critical and creative thinking skills
- are more engaged and motivated
- demonstrate fewer at risk behaviors

Artist Residency Grants support residencies of professional artists in PK-12 schools. The program is designed to reinforce the scope and sequence of curriculum-based arts instruction.

Teacher Incentive Grants provide up to \$300 to PK-12 teachers for innovative projects which link the arts with specific non-arts learning objectives.



To learn more about the Virginia Commission for the Arts,
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